

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Patent Application of

Stuart D. Hellring et al.

Serial No. 10/627,776

Filed: July 28, 2003

For: SILICA AND SILICA-BASED SLURRY Group Art Unit: 2812

Examiner: Not Assigned

Atty Docket No: 1673P1

Confirmation No. 5340

STATUS INQUIRY

Commissioners for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

The last correspondence received by Applicants from the United States Patent Office was a Notice of Recordation of Assignment Document dated July 2, 2004. The last correspondence submitted by Applicants to the United States Patent Office was a Communication dated July 13, 2004. Applicant has received no Office Actions from the United States Patent Office to date; therefore, it is respectfully requested that Applicants be informed as to the status of the above-identified application and when further action thereon may be expected.

Respectfully submitted,

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January 31, 2005 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15272

> I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginja 22313-1450

February 1, 2005 on

Date

Norma J. Golling

Typed or Printed Name of Person Signing Certificate